

# The Asymptotic Stability of a Nonstationary System with Delay

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**Abstract**—In this paper we study the exponential stability of a linear system of differential equations with a constant delay such that the right-hand side of one of its subsystems contains an exponential multiplier. We establish sufficient conditions for the existence of an asymptotically periodic solution to the inhomogeneous system.

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## 1. STABILITY OF NONSTATIONARY HOMOGENEOUS SYSTEMS

Consider the following linear homogeneous system with a constant delay:

$$\begin{aligned} dx(t)/dt &= A_1(t)x(t) + A_2(t)x(t - \sigma) + B_1(t)y(t) + B_2(t)y(t - \sigma), \\ dy(t)/dt &= \theta_0 e^t [A_3x(t) + A_4x(t - \sigma) + B_3y(t) + B_4y(t - \sigma)], \\ t &\geq 0, \quad \theta_0 > 0, \quad \sigma = \text{const}, \quad \sigma > 0. \end{aligned} \quad (1.1)$$

Here  $A_i(t)$  and  $B_i(t)$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) are periodic (with a period  $0 < T \leq \sigma$ ) continuously differentiable  $m \times m$ -matrices,  $A_k$  and  $B_k$  ( $k = 3, 4$ ) are constant  $m \times m$ -matrices, while  $x(t)$  and  $y(t)$  are  $m$ -dimensional vector functions with respect to (the argument)  $t$ .

We define the norm of a vector  $w = \{w_j\}^{(\top)}$  (here  $w_j$  are components of the vector  $w$ , and  $(\top)$  is the transposition sign) by the equality  $\|w\| = \sum_{j=1}^m |w_j|$ ; we do the norm of a matrix  $D = \{d_{ij}\}$  ( $i, j = 1, \dots, m$ ) in accordance with the norm of a vector ([1], P. 12), namely,  $\|D\| = \max_j \sum_i |d_{ij}|$ .

Earlier we studied properties of a system with constant matrices  $A_i^0$  and  $B_i^0$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) in papers [2–4]. Note that one can obtain system (1.1) by replacing the time variable  $t = \ln(\frac{\theta}{\theta_0})$  in the following system with a linear delay:

$$\begin{aligned} d\hat{x}(\theta)/d\theta &= \frac{1}{\theta} [\hat{A}_1(\theta)\hat{x}(\theta) + \hat{A}_2(\theta)\hat{x}(\mu\theta) + \hat{B}_1(\theta)\hat{y}(\theta) + \hat{B}_2(\theta)\hat{y}(\mu\theta)], \\ d\hat{y}(\theta)/d\theta &= A_3\hat{x}(\theta) + A_4\hat{x}(\mu\theta) + B_3\hat{y}(\theta) + B_4\hat{y}(\mu\theta), \\ \theta &\geq \theta_0 > 0, \quad \sigma = -\ln(\mu), \quad 0 < \mu < 1. \end{aligned}$$

On an initial set  $[\mu\theta_0, \theta_0]$  we define an initial vector function  $\hat{\phi}(\theta)$ . We can solve this system by successive integration on segments  $h_n(\theta) = (\frac{\theta_0}{\mu^n}, \frac{\theta_0}{\mu^{n+1}}]$ . This method does not allow one to establish asymptotic properties of the system under consideration.

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As was proved earlier, solution  $\{x^0(t), y^0(t)\}^\top$  to the system

$$\begin{aligned} dx^0(t)/dt &= A_1^0 x^0(t) + A_2^0 x^0(t - \sigma) + B_1^0 y^0(t) + B_2^0 y^0(t - \sigma), \\ dy^0(t)/dt &= \theta_0 e^t [A_3 x^0(t) + A_4 x^0(t - \tau) + B_3 y^0(t) + B_4 y^0(t - \tau)], \quad t \geq 0, \end{aligned} \quad (1.2)$$

is exponentially stable, and the system itself is stable in the first approximation, if all the following conditions are fulfilled:

1) roots  $\lambda$  of the characteristic equation

$$|A_1^0 + A_2^0 e^{-\lambda\sigma} - \lambda E| = 0$$

have negative real parts, i.e.,

$$\operatorname{Re} \lambda < -\beta_1, \quad \beta_1 = \text{const}, \quad \beta_1 > 0; \quad (1.3)$$

2) eigenvalues  $\nu$  of the matrix  $B_3$  have negative real parts, i.e.,

$$\operatorname{Re} \nu < -\beta_2, \quad \beta_2 = \text{const}, \quad \beta_2 > 0; \quad (1.4)$$

3) roots  $p$  of the characteristic equation

$$|B_3 + B_4 e^{-p\sigma} - (A_3 + A_4 e^{-p\sigma}) (A_1^0 + A_2^0 e^{-p\sigma} - pE)^{-1} (B_1^0 + B_2^0 e^{-p\sigma})| = 0$$

satisfy the inequality

$$\operatorname{Re} \nu < -\beta_3, \quad \beta_3 = \text{const}, \quad \beta_3 > 0. \quad (1.5)$$

In the paper [2] with the help of the Laplace transform [5] we prove that under conditions (1.3)–(1.5) solution  $x^0(t, \phi_1(\eta)), y^0(t, \phi_2(\eta))$  to system (1.2) (defined by the initial vector function  $\phi^{(\top)}(\eta) = \{\phi_1(\eta), \phi_2(\eta)\} : x(\eta) = \phi_1(\eta), y(\eta) = \phi_2(\eta), \eta \in [-\sigma, 0]$ ) satisfies the bound

$$\|x^0(t)\| + \|y^0(t)\| \leq M_0 e^{-\beta_0 t} [\sup_{\eta} \|\phi_1(\eta)\| + \sup_{\eta} \|\phi_2(\eta)\|], \quad t \geq 0, \quad (1.6)$$

$$M_0 = \text{const}, \quad M_0 > 1, \quad \beta_0 = \min\{\beta_1, \beta_3\} - \bar{\varepsilon}$$

( $\beta_0 > 0$  with sufficiently small positive  $\bar{\varepsilon}$ ).

Let us define a solution to the initial system (1.1) by the same vector function  $\phi(\eta)$  (we set  $\sup_{\eta} \|\phi_1(\eta)\| + \sup_{\eta} \|\phi_2(\eta)\| < \delta_0$ , while  $\delta_0$  is a sufficiently small positive number). In order to better understand properties of the initial system, we proceed from system (1.1) (a finite system of differential equations with a delay on an infinite time interval) to a countable system of ordinary differential equations given on a finite time interval  $[0, \sigma]$ . To this end, we set  $x_{n+1}(t) = x(n\sigma + t)$  and  $y_{n+1}(t) = y(n\sigma + t)$  ( $n = 1, 2, \dots$ ),  $t \in [0, \sigma]$ . We get the following totality of two subsystems:

$$dx_{n+1}(t)/dt = A_1(t)x_{n+1}(t) + A_2(t)x_n(t) + B_1(t)y_{n+1}(t) + B_2(t)y_n(t), \quad (1.7)$$

$$\varepsilon_n dy_{n+1}(t)/dt = e^t [A_3 x_{n+1}(t) + A_4 x_n(t) + B_3 y_{n+1}(t) + B_4 y_n(t)], \quad (1.8)$$

$$t_0 \leq t \leq t_0 + \sigma, \quad \varepsilon_n = e^{-n\sigma}/\theta_0 = \mu^n/\theta_0, \quad x_0(t) = \phi_1(t - \sigma), \quad y_0 = \phi_2(t - \sigma),$$

satisfying boundary conditions ([5], P. 103)

$$x_{n+1}(0) = x_n(\sigma), \quad y_{n+1}(0) = y_n(\sigma).$$

Thus, we have reduced the solution of system (1.1) to the successive integration of a “differential-difference” system in the space of continuous vector functions given on the segment  $[0, \sigma]$ . Let us mention some properties of subsystem (1.8). Since  $\varepsilon_n \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , subsystem (1.8) is singularly perturbed [2, 3], consequently, the solution set of system (1.7), (1.8) contains slow variables ( $x_n(t)$ ) and fast ones ( $y_n(t)$ ). Moreover, with sufficiently large  $n$ , just the presence of a small parameter  $\varepsilon_n$  allows us to consider the asymptotic behavior of subsystem (1.7) with periodic matrices  $A_i(t)$  and  $B_i(t)$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ).

It is well-known ([6], P. 484) that periodic continuously differentiable matrices  $A_k(t)$  and  $B_k(t)$  are representable as absolutely convergent Fourier series, namely,

$$A_k(t) = \frac{\alpha_0^k}{2} + \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} [\alpha_j^k \cos(jrt) + \beta_j^k \sin(jrt)],$$

$$B_k(t) = \frac{\hat{\alpha}_0^k}{2} + \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} [\hat{\alpha}_j^k \cos(jrt) + \hat{\beta}_j^k \sin(jrt)], \quad k = 1, 2; \quad r = 2\pi/\sigma.$$

In view of the absolute convergence of these series, there exists a positive integer number  $\hat{k}$  satisfying approximate equalities

$$\begin{aligned} A_k(t) &\approx \frac{\alpha_0^k}{2} + \sum_{j=1}^{\hat{k}} [\alpha_j^k \cos(jrt) + \beta_j^k \sin(jrt)] = \hat{A}_k(t), \\ B_k(t) &\approx \frac{\hat{\alpha}_0^k}{2} + \sum_{j=1}^{\hat{k}} [\hat{\alpha}_j^k \cos(jrt) + \hat{\beta}_j^k \sin(jrt)] = \hat{B}_k(t), \quad k = 1, 2. \end{aligned} \quad (1.9)$$

By replacing the time variable  $t = \varepsilon_n \tau_n$  in system (1.7), (1.8), taking into account approximations (1.9), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} dx_{n+1}(\tau_n)/d\tau_n &= \varepsilon_n [\hat{A}_1(\varepsilon_n \tau_n) x_{n+1}(\tau_n) + \hat{A}_2(\varepsilon_n \tau_n) x_n(\tau_n) \\ &\quad + \hat{B}_1(\varepsilon_n \tau_n) y_{n+1}(\tau_n) + \hat{B}_2(\varepsilon_n \tau_n) y_n(\tau_n)], \end{aligned} \quad (1.10)$$

$$dy_{n+1}(\tau_n)/d\tau_n = e^{\varepsilon_n \tau_n} [A_3 x_{n+1}(\tau_n) + A_4 x_n(\tau_n) + B_3 y_{n+1}(\tau_n) + B_4 y_n(\tau_n)], \quad (1.11)$$

$$0 \leq \tau_n \leq \frac{\sigma}{\varepsilon_n}, \quad \varepsilon_n = \frac{e^{-n\sigma}}{\theta_0}, \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \varepsilon_n = 0, \quad \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \varepsilon_j < \infty.$$

Consider subsystem (1.10) with sufficiently large  $n$ . As is known ([7], P. 177), one can treat the totality of nonstationary terms in the right-hand side of this subsystem as linear perturbations “oscillating” with sufficiently small frequency, whose norms satisfy, respectively, bounds ([8], P. 259)

$$\int_s^{\tau} \delta_j(s) ds \leq \hat{\varepsilon}_n(\tau - s), \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \hat{\varepsilon}_n = 0, \quad j = 1, 2, \quad (1.12)$$

where

$$\delta_1(\tau_n) = \|x_{n+1}(\tau_n)\|, \quad \delta_1(\tau_n) = \|y_{n+1}(\tau_n)\|, \quad \delta_2(\tau_{n-1}) = \|x_n(\tau_n)\|, \quad \delta_2(\tau_{n-1}) = \|y_n(\tau_n)\|.$$

Consequently, the first approximation subsystem for (1.10) with sufficiently large  $n$  takes the form

$$dx_{n+1}^0(\tau_n)/d\tau_n = \varepsilon_n \left\{ \frac{\alpha_0^1}{2} x_{n+1}^0(\tau_n) + \frac{\alpha_0^2}{2} x_n^0(\tau_n) + \frac{\alpha_0^3}{2} y_{n+1}^0(\tau_n) + \frac{\alpha_0^4}{2} y_n^0(\tau_n) \right\},$$

and the first approximation system corresponding to (1.10), (1.11) is the following differential-difference system

$$\begin{aligned} dx_{n+1}^0(\tau_n)/d\tau_n &= \varepsilon_n \left\{ \frac{\alpha_0^1}{2} x_{n+1}^0(\tau_n) + \frac{\alpha_0^2}{2} x_n^0(\tau_n) + \frac{\alpha_0^3}{2} y_{n+1}^0(\tau_n) + \frac{\alpha_0^4}{2} y_n^0(\tau_n) \right\}, \\ dy_{n+1}^0(\tau_n)/dt &= e^{\varepsilon_n \tau_n} \{ A_3 x_{n+1}^0(\tau_n) + A_4 x_n^0(\tau_n) + B_3 y_{n+1}^0(\tau_n) + B_4 y_n^0(\tau_n) \}. \end{aligned} \quad (1.13)$$

Now let system (1.13) satisfy exponential stability conditions, i.e., inequalities (1.3), (1.4), and (1.5).

**Theorem 1.** *If constant (“averaged”) matrices  $\alpha_0^k$ ,  $k = 1, \dots, 4$ , satisfy conditions (1.3), (1.4), and (1.5), then system (1.7), (1.8) is exponentially stable.*

**Proof.** Let us write the solution to system (1.10), (1.11) in the operator form

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_{n+1}^0(\tau_n) \\ y_{n+1}^0(\tau_n) \end{pmatrix} = T_{\tau_n, n} \begin{pmatrix} x_n^0(\tau_n), y_{n+1}^0(\tau_n), y_n^0(\tau_n) \\ y_n^0(\tau_n), x_{n+1}^0(\tau_n), x_n^0(\tau_n) \end{pmatrix},$$

where the linear shift operator obeys the formula

$$T_{\tau_n, n} = \begin{Bmatrix} T_{\tau_n, n}^1 \\ T_{\tau_n, n}^2 \end{Bmatrix} = \begin{cases} U_n(\tau_n)u_n(\frac{\sigma}{\varepsilon_n}) + \int_0^{\tau_n} U_n(\tau_n - s)0.5\varepsilon_n\alpha_0^2u_n(s)ds \\ \quad + \int_0^{\tau_n} U_n(\tau_n - s)0.5\varepsilon_n(\alpha_0^3v_{n+1}(s) + \alpha_0^4v_n(s))ds, \\ V_n(\tau_n)v_n(\frac{\sigma}{\varepsilon_n}) + \int_0^{\tau_n} V_n(\tau_n, s)e^{\varepsilon_n s}(B_4v_n(s) \\ \quad + A_3u_{n+1}(s) + A_4u_n(s))ds. \end{cases} \quad (1.14)$$

Here  $U_n(\tau - s)$  is the fundamental solution matrix of the homogeneous system

$$d\bar{u}/d\tau = 0.5\varepsilon_n[\alpha_0^1\bar{u}(\tau) + \alpha_0^2\bar{u}(\tau - \sigma)], \quad 0 \leq \tau \leq \sigma/\varepsilon_n;$$

owing to inequality (1.5)), it satisfies the bound

$$\|U_n(\tau - s)\| \leq M_1 e^{-\varepsilon_n \beta_1(\tau - s)}, \quad M_1 > 0. \quad (1.15)$$

Analogously, the matrix

$$V_n(\tau, s) = \exp \left\{ B_3 \frac{e^{\varepsilon_n \tau} - e^{\varepsilon_n s}}{\varepsilon_n} \right\}$$

is the fundamental solution matrix of the homogeneous system

$$d\bar{v}/d\tau = e^{\varepsilon_n \tau} B_3 \bar{v}(\tau),$$

and it also satisfies the bound

$$\|V_n(\tau, s)\| \leq M_2 \exp \left\{ \frac{-\beta_2}{\varepsilon_n} (e^{\varepsilon_n \tau} - e^{\varepsilon_n s}) \right\}, \quad M_2 \geq 1. \quad (1.16)$$

Note that in view of bounds (1.15) and (1.16) the given operator  $T_{\tau_n, n}$  is uniformly bounded [3, 4], i.e.,  $\|T_{\tau_n, n}\| \leq \overline{M}$ ,  $\overline{M} > 1$ . Inequality (1.6) for the product of operators  $T_{n_j, j}$  implies the bound [4]

$$\left\| T_{\tau_n, n} \prod_{j=0}^{n-1} T_{s_j, j} w_0(s) \right\| \leq \widehat{M}_0 q^n (\sup_{\eta} \|x_0(\eta)\| + \sup_{\eta} \|y_0(\eta)\|),$$

$$w_0^{(\top)}(\eta) = \{x_0(\eta), y_0(\eta)\}, \quad \eta \in [-\sigma, 0], \quad q = e^{-\beta_0 \sigma}, \quad 0 < q < 1, \quad \widehat{M}_0 > 1.$$

Assume that  $\varepsilon_n$  is sufficiently small for  $n \geq N$  ( $N$  is a positive integer number).

Let us seek for a solution to the “perturbed” system (1.10), (1.11) stepwise. Denote “perturbations”, respectively, by

$$f_{n+1}^1(\tau_n, x_{n+1}(\tau_n), x_n(\tau_n)) = (\widehat{A}_1(\tau_n) - \alpha_0^1/2)x_{n+1}(\tau_n) + (\widehat{A}_2(\tau_n) - \alpha_0^2/2)x_n(\tau_n),$$

$$f_{n+1}^2(\tau_n, y_{n+1}(\tau_n), y_n(\tau_n)) = (\widehat{B}_1(\tau_n) - \alpha_0^1/2)y_{n+1}(\tau_n) + (\widehat{B}_2(\tau_n) - \alpha_0^2/2)y_n(\tau_n).$$

We write the system solution in the integral (Cauchy) form, treating perturbing (oscillating) terms as inhomogeneities ([1], P. 162), and represent the solution in the operator form

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_{n+1}(\tau_n) \\ y_{n+1}(\tau_n) \end{pmatrix} = T_{\tau_n, n} \begin{pmatrix} x_n^0(\tau_n), y_{n+1}^0(\tau_n), y_n^0(\tau_n) \\ y_n^0(\tau_n), x_{n+1}^0(\tau_n), x_n^0(\tau_n) \end{pmatrix} + I_n \left( f_{n+1}^1(\tau_n, x_{n+1}(\tau_n), x_n(\tau_n)), f_{n+1}^2(\tau_n, y_{n+1}(\tau_n), y_n(\tau_n)) \right).$$

Here  $I_n$  is the linear integral operator defined as

$$\begin{aligned} & I_n^1(f_{n+1}^1(\tau_n, x_{n+1}(\tau_n), x_n(\tau_n)), f_{n+1}^2(\tau_n, y_{n+1}(\tau_n), y_n(\tau_n))) \\ &= \int_0^{\tau_n} U_n(\tau_n - s_n) \varepsilon_n f_{n+1}^1(s_n, x_{n+1}(s_n), x_n(s_n)) ds_n \end{aligned}$$

$$+ \int_0^{\tau_n} U_n(\tau_n - s_n) \varepsilon_n f_{n+1}^2(s_n, y_{n+1}(s_n), y_n(s_n)) ds_n.$$

Taking into account bounds (1.12), let us prove that terms containing values  $f_{n+1}^1(\tau_n, x_{n+1}(\tau_n), x_n(\tau_n))$  and  $f_{n+1}^2(\tau_n, y_{n+1}(\tau_n), y_n(\tau_n))$ , have a higher order of smallness than unperturbed terms. Assume that  $\tau_n > 1$ ,  $0 \leq s_n \leq k + \vartheta$ ,  $k$  is a positive integer number,  $\vartheta = \text{const}$ , and  $0 < \vartheta < 1$ . Then we get the following chain of inequalities:

$$\begin{aligned} & \|I_n^1(f_{n+1}^1(\tau_n, x_{n+1}(\tau_n), x_n(\tau_n)))\| \\ & \leq \int_0^{\tau_n} M_1 e^{-\varepsilon_n \beta_1(\tau_n - s_n)} \varepsilon_n \delta_1(s_n) \|x_{n+1}(s_n)\| ds_n + \int_0^{\tau_n} M_1 e^{-\varepsilon_n \beta_1(\tau_n - s_n)} \varepsilon_n \delta_2(s_n) \|x_n(s_n)\| ds_n \\ & \leq M_1 e^{-\varepsilon_n \beta_1 \tau_n} \sup_{0 \leq s_n \leq \tau_n} \|x_{n+1}(s_n)\| \sum_{j=1}^{k+1} e^{\varepsilon_n \beta_1 j} \int_j^{j+1} \varepsilon_n \delta_1(r) dr \\ & \quad + M_1 e^{-\varepsilon_n \beta_1 \tau_n} \sup_{0 \leq s_n \leq \tau_n} \|x_n(s_n)\| \sum_{j=1}^{k+1} e^{\varepsilon_n \beta_1 j} \int_j^{j+1} \varepsilon_n \delta_2(r) dr \\ & \leq \varepsilon_n \widehat{\varepsilon}_n M_1 \frac{e^{\varepsilon_n \beta_1}}{e^{\varepsilon_n \beta_1} - 1} \sup_{0 \leq s_n \leq \tau_n} (\|x_{n+1}(s_n)\| + \|x_n(s_n)\|). \end{aligned}$$

Note that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\varepsilon_n}{e^{\varepsilon_n \beta_1} - 1} = \frac{1}{\beta_1}$ .

If  $\tau \leq 1$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} & M_1 \int_0^s e^{-\varepsilon_n \beta_1(\tau_n - s_n)} \varepsilon_n \delta_1(s_n) \|x_{n+1}(s_n)\| ds_n + M_1 \int_0^s e^{-\varepsilon_n \beta_1(\tau_n - s_n)} \varepsilon_n \delta_2(s_n) \|x_n(s_n)\| ds_n \\ & \leq M_1 \varepsilon_n \widehat{\varepsilon}_n \left( \sup_{0 \leq s_n \leq \tau_n} \|x_{n+1}(s_n)\| + \sup_{0 \leq s_n \leq \tau_n} \|x_n(s_n)\| \right). \end{aligned}$$

In both cases the sum of these integrals does not exceed the value

$$\mathbf{O}(\widehat{\varepsilon}_n) \left( \sup_{0 \leq s_n \leq \tau_n} \|x_{n+1}(s_n)\| + \sup_{0 \leq s_n \leq \tau_n} \|x_n(s_n)\| \right). \quad (1.17)$$

Now, estimating the value  $\|I_n^1(f_{n+1}^2(\tau_n, y_{n+1}(\tau_n), y_n(\tau_n)))\|$ , we obtain an analogous bound, namely,

$$\|I_n^1(f_{n+1}^2(\tau_n, y_{n+1}(\tau_n), y_n(\tau_n)))\| = \mathbf{O}(\widehat{\varepsilon}_n) \left( \sup_{0 \leq s_n \leq \tau_n} \|y_{n+1}(s_n)\| + \sup_{0 \leq s_n \leq \tau_n} \|y_n(s_n)\| \right). \quad (1.18)$$

Since with  $n < N$  system (1.10) (1.11) has bounded right-hand sides satisfying the Lipschitz conditions, we can estimate its solution with the help of the Bellman–Gronwall lemma ([8], P. 517). This solution  $\{x_{n-1}, y_{n-1}\}^\top$  is, at least, bounded, i.e., there exists  $L > 0$  such that

$$\max_{\tau_{n-2}} (\|x_{n-1}(\tau_{n-2})\| + \|y_{n-1}(\tau_{n-2})\|) \leq L \sup_{\eta} (\|\phi_1(\eta)\| + \|\phi_2(\eta)\|). \quad (1.19)$$

For the solution to the perturbed system (1.10), (1.11) defined by the initial vector function  $\{x_{n-1}(\tau_{n-2}), y_{n-1}(\tau_{n-2})\}^\top$  with  $n \geq N$ , in view of bounds (1.17) and (1.18) (i.e., the smallness of perturbations), taking into accounts results obtained by us in [4], we get the bound

$$\max_{\tau_{n+j}} (\|x_{n+j+1}(\tau_{n+j})\| + \|y_{n+j+1}(\tau_{n+j})\|) \leq L_1 (q_1)^j \max_{\tau_{n-2}} (\|x(\tau_{n-2})\| + \|y(\tau_{n-2})\|), \quad (1.20)$$

$$q < q_1 < 1, \quad L_1 > 1.$$

Formulas (1.19) and (1.20) imply an analogous exponential bound for any  $x_n(\tau_{n-1}), y_n(\tau_{n-1})$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ . Furthermore, since

$$\|A_k(t) - \widehat{A}_k(t)\| < \varepsilon, \quad \|B_k(t) - \widehat{B}_k(t)\| < \varepsilon, \quad k = 1, 2$$

( $\varepsilon$  is a sufficiently small positive number), the exponential stability of the first approximation system (1.13) implies the same property of system (1.10), (1.11) (in view of results obtained in [4]).  $\square$

## 2. THE EXISTENCE OF AN ASYMPTOTICALLY PERIODIC SOLUTION

Consider the inhomogeneous system

$$\begin{aligned} d\hat{x}(t)/dt &= A_1(t)\hat{x}(t) + A_2(t)\hat{x}(t - \sigma) + B_1(t)\hat{y}(t) + B_2(t)\hat{y}(t - \sigma) + f_1(t), \\ d\hat{y}(t)/dt &= \theta_0 e^t [A_3\hat{x}(t) + A_4\hat{x}(t - \sigma) + B_3\hat{y}(t) + B_4\hat{y}(t - \sigma) + f_2(t)], \\ t &\geq 0, \quad \theta_0 > 0, \quad \sigma > 0. \end{aligned} \quad (2.1)$$

Here  $f(t)$  ( $j = 1, 2$ ) are periodic continuously differentiable functions with the period  $T = \sigma$ . Assume that the corresponding homogeneous system satisfies conditions of Theorem 1. Then the solution to the perturbed homogeneous system (that corresponds to the first approximation system (1.13)) satisfies the bound

$$\|x(\tau_n)\| + \|y(\tau_n)\| \leq \hat{L} \prod_{j=0}^n (q + \|\mathbf{O}(\varepsilon_j)\| + \|\mathbf{O}(\varepsilon)\|) (\sup_{\eta} \|\phi_1(\eta)\| + \sup_{\eta} \|\phi_2(\eta)\|), \quad (2.2)$$

$$\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} (q + \|\mathbf{O}(\varepsilon_j)\| + \|\mathbf{O}(\varepsilon)\|) = q_1, \quad q < q_1 < 1, \quad \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \|\mathbf{O}(\varepsilon_j)\| < \infty.$$

Taking into account the asymptotic behavior of the solution to the inhomogeneous perturbed system written in the integral form stepwise, in view of bound (2.2) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \|\hat{x}(\tau_n)\| + \|\hat{y}(\tau_n)\| &\leq \hat{L} \prod_{j=0}^n (q + \|\mathbf{O}(\varepsilon_j)\| + \|\mathbf{O}(\varepsilon)\|) (\sup_{\eta} \|\phi_1(\eta)\| + \sup_{\eta} \|\phi_2(\eta)\|) \\ &\quad + \hat{L} \prod_{j=0}^{n-1} (q + \|\mathbf{O}(\varepsilon_j)\| + \|\mathbf{O}(\varepsilon)\|) (\max_{0 \leq t \leq \sigma} \|f_1(t)\| + \max_{0 \leq t \leq \sigma} \|f_2(t)\|) \\ &\quad + \hat{L} \prod_{j=0}^{n-2} (q + \|\mathbf{O}(\varepsilon_j)\| + \|\mathbf{O}(\varepsilon)\|) (\max_{0 \leq t \leq \sigma} \|f_1(t)\| + \max_{0 \leq t \leq \sigma} \|f_2(t)\|) + \dots \\ &\quad + \hat{L} (\max_{0 \leq t \leq \sigma} \|f_1(t)\| + \max_{0 \leq t \leq \sigma} \|f_2(t)\|) \leq \hat{L}_1 \prod_{j=0}^n (q_1 + \|\mathbf{O}(\varepsilon_j)\|) (\sup_{\eta} \|\phi_1(\eta)\| + \sup_{\eta} \|\phi_2(\eta)\|) \\ &\quad + \frac{\hat{L}_1}{1 - q_1} (\max_{0 \leq t \leq \sigma} \|f_1(t)\| + \max_{0 \leq t \leq \sigma} \|f_2(t)\|), \quad \hat{L} < \hat{L}_1 < \infty. \end{aligned}$$

This estimate means the boundedness of solutions  $\{\|\hat{x}(t, \phi_1(\theta))\|, \|\hat{y}(t, \phi_2(\theta))\|\}$  to system (2.1). Then (as follows from Theorem 1, namely, from a correlation analogous to (1.10))  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} d\hat{x}(t)/dt = 0$ . This allows us to study asymptotic properties of some partial solutions under additional conditions imposed on the right-hand sides of the inhomogeneous system (2.1).

The next theorem is a continuation of the study performed in [9].

**Theorem 2.** *Let assumptions of Theorem 1 be fulfilled together with the following conditions:*

- 1) *there exists a matrix  $(B_3 + B_4)^{-1}$ ,*
- 2) *there exists a constant  $m$ -dimensional vector  $\hat{C}$  such that*

$$(A_1(t) + A_2(t))\hat{C} + f_1(t) = (B_1(t) + B_2(t))[(B_3 + B_4)^{-1}[(A_3 + A_4)\hat{C} + f_2(t)]].$$

*Then system (2.1) has an asymptotically periodic (with a period  $\sigma$ ) solution  $\{\hat{x}_\sigma, \hat{y}_\sigma\}^\top$ , where*

$$\hat{x}_\sigma = \hat{C}, \quad \hat{y}(t) = -(B_3 + B_4)^{-1}[(A_3 + A_4)\hat{C} + f_2(t)].$$

**Proof.** System (2.1) corresponds to the inhomogeneous differential-difference system

$$\begin{aligned} d\hat{x}_{n+1}(t)/dt &= A_1(t)\hat{x}_{n+1}(t) + A_2(t)\hat{x}_n(t) + B_1(t)\hat{y}_{n+1}(t) + B_2(t)\hat{y}_n(t) + f_1(t), \\ \varepsilon_n d\hat{y}_{n+1}(t)/dt &= e^t [A_3\hat{x}_{n+1}(t) + A_4\hat{x}_n(t) + B_3\hat{y}_{n+1}(t) + B_4\hat{y}_n(t) + f_2(t)], \end{aligned} \quad (2.3)$$

$$0 \leq t \leq \sigma, \quad \hat{y}_{n+1}(0) = \hat{y}_n(\sigma), \quad \hat{x}(t) \approx \hat{C}, \quad n \geq N.$$

Consider the second subsystem. Let  $N$  be a sufficiently large positive integer number. Because of the presence of the small parameter  $\varepsilon_n$  in the left-hand side of the subsystem, we seek for a partial solution in the form

$$\hat{y}_\sigma(t) = -(B_3 + B_4)^{-1}[(A_3 + A_4)\hat{C} + f_2(t)]. \quad (2.4)$$

Let  $\hat{x}_n(t) = \hat{C} + x_n^0(t)$  and  $\hat{y}_n(t) = y(t)_\sigma + y_n^0(t)$ . Then in view of (2.4) from the second subsystem in (2.3) we get

$$dx_{n+1}(t)^0/dt = A_1(t)x_{n+1}^0(t) + A_2(t)x_n^0(t) + B_1(t)y_{n+1}^0(t) + B_2(t)y_n^0(t),$$

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon_n dy_\sigma(t)/dt + \varepsilon_n dy_{n+1}^0(t)/dt \\ = e^t[A_3\hat{C} + A_4\hat{C} + A_3\hat{x}_{n+1}^0(t) + A_4\hat{x}_n^0(t) + B_3y_\sigma(t) + B_4y_\sigma(t) + B_3y_{n+1}^0(t) + B_4\hat{y}_n^0(t) + f_2(t)] \\ = e^t[A_3\hat{x}_{n+1}^0(t) + A_4\hat{x}_n^0(t) + B_3y_{n+1}^0(t) + B_4\hat{y}_n^0(t)]. \end{aligned}$$

This system is inhomogeneous, and the vector function  $\varepsilon_n dy_\sigma(t)/dt$  in it is vanishing (it tends to zero as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ). Let us prove that the solution to this system  $\{x_n^0(t), y_n^0(t)\}^\top \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . Let  $\hat{q} = q + \mathbf{O}(\varepsilon)$ ,  $q = e^{-\beta_0\sigma}$ , and  $q < \hat{q} < 1$ . Without loss of generality, we assume that

$$\hat{q} > \mu : \mu = \delta\hat{q}, \quad 0 < \delta < 1. \quad (2.5)$$

Using the constant variation formula ([9], P. 157), we can write the solution to the perturbed inhomogeneous system on any step. We have

$$\begin{aligned} w_{n+k,\varepsilon}(t) = \hat{T}_{n+k-1}\hat{T}_{n+k-2}\dots\hat{T}_n(w_n(s)) + \varepsilon_1\hat{T}_{n+k-1}\hat{T}_{n+k-2}\dots\hat{T}_{n+1}dy_\sigma(t)/dt \\ + \varepsilon_2\hat{T}_{n+k-1}\hat{T}_{n+k-2}\dots\hat{T}_{n+2}dy_\sigma(t)/dt + \dots + \varepsilon_k dy_\sigma(t)/dt. \end{aligned} \quad (2.6)$$

Here  $\hat{T}_n$  is the shift operator similar to (1.19) acting in the Banach space  $C_{2m}[0, \tau]$  of continuous functions ([5], P. 124). In this space the solution to the unperturbed (linear) system is also representable in the operator form. Asymptotic properties of this operator [4] are analogous to properties of the operator  $T_{n,\tau_n}$ . Namely, the product of these operators (as follows from Theorem 1) satisfies the bound

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \prod_{j=N}^{N+k} \hat{T}_j w_{N-1}(s) \right\| \leq \hat{L}_2 \hat{q}^k (\|x^{N-1}(t)\|_\tau + \|y_{N-1}(\tau)\|_\tau), \\ w_{N-1}^{(\top)}(t) = \{x^{N-1}(t), y^{N-1}(t)\}, \quad \hat{L}_2 \geq 1, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots \end{aligned} \quad (2.7)$$

These operators are also uniformly bounded. Correlations (2.6) and (2.7) imply the inequality

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{0 \leq t \leq \sigma} (\|x_{n+k}^0(t)\| + \|y_{n+k}^0(t)\|) \leq \hat{L}_2 \hat{q}^k \max_{0 \leq t \leq \sigma} (\|x_n^0(t)\| + \|y_n^0(t)\|) + \hat{L}_2 \hat{q}^{k-1} \max_{0 \leq t \leq \sigma} \|dy_\sigma(t)/dt\| \\ + \hat{L}_2 \varepsilon_1 \hat{q}^{k-2} \max_{0 \leq t \leq \sigma} \|dy_\sigma(t)/dt\| + \hat{L}_2 \varepsilon_2 \hat{q}^{k-3} \max_{0 \leq t \leq \sigma} \|dy_\sigma(t)/dt\| + \dots + \hat{L}_2 \varepsilon_{k-1} \max_{0 \leq t \leq \sigma} \|dy_\sigma(t)/dt\|. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, taking into account (2.5), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{0 \leq t \leq \sigma} (\|x_{n+k}^0(t)\| + \|y_{n+k}^0(t)\|) \leq \hat{L}_2 \hat{q}^k \max_{0 \leq t \leq \sigma} (\|x_n^0(t)\| + \|y_n^0(t)\|) + \hat{L}_2 \hat{q}^{k-1} \max_{0 \leq t \leq \sigma} \|dy_\sigma(t)/dt\| \\ + \hat{L}_2 \hat{q}^{k-1} \frac{\delta}{\theta_0} \max_{0 \leq t \leq \sigma} \|dy_\sigma(t)/dt\| + \hat{L}_2 \hat{q}^{k-1} \frac{\delta^2}{\theta_0} \max_{0 \leq t \leq \sigma} \|dy_\sigma(t)/dt\| + \dots + \hat{L}_2 \hat{q}^{k-1} \frac{\delta^{k-1}}{\theta_0} \max_{0 \leq t \leq \sigma} \|dy_\sigma(t)/dt\| \\ \leq \hat{L}_2 \hat{q}^k \max_{0 \leq t \leq \sigma} (\|x_n^0(t)\| + \|y_n^0(t)\|) + \frac{\hat{L}_2 \hat{q}^{k-1}}{\theta_0(1-\delta)} \max_{0 \leq t \leq \sigma} \|dy_\sigma(t)/dt\|. \end{aligned}$$

Since values  $\max_{0 \leq t \leq \sigma} (\|x_n^0(t)\| + \|y_n^0(t)\|)$ ,  $\max_{0 \leq t \leq \sigma} \|dy_\sigma(t)/dt\|$  are bounded, we conclude that

$$\max_{0 \leq t \leq \sigma} (\|x_{n+k}^0(t)\| + \|y_{n+k}^0(t)\|) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } k \rightarrow \infty.$$

□

**Remark.** Condition 2) of Theorem 2 may be fulfilled accurate to a vanishing vector function.

### 3. AN EXAMPLE

Consider the asymptotic behavior of a fourth-order system with the following parameters: the delay  $\sigma = 1$ , matrices  $A_j$  and  $B_j$ ,  $j = 1, \dots, 4$ , with components

$$\begin{aligned} A_1 &= \begin{pmatrix} \sin pt & \cos pt \\ \sin pt & -\cos pt \end{pmatrix}, \quad A_2 = \begin{pmatrix} -\cos pt & \sin pt \\ \sin pt & \sin pt \end{pmatrix}, \quad A_4 = \begin{pmatrix} 0.4 & 0.1 \\ 0 & 0.4 \end{pmatrix}, \\ B_1 &= \begin{pmatrix} 4 \cos pt & -\cos pt \\ -0.5 \cos pt & -\sin pt \end{pmatrix}, \quad B_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0.3 \cos pt & -0.5 \cos pt \\ \sin pt & \sin pt \end{pmatrix}, \\ B_3 &= \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 4 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad B_4 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \end{aligned} \quad (3.1)$$

and the zero matrix  $A_3$ . Here  $p = 2\pi/\sigma$ . Furthermore, the vector function  $f_2(t) = \{\cos^3 pt, \sin^3 pt\}^\top$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} f_1(t) &= \begin{pmatrix} 4 \cos pt + 0.3 \cos pt & -1.5 \cos pt \\ -0.5 \cos pt + \sin pt & 0 \end{pmatrix} * \begin{pmatrix} -0.602 & -0.422 \\ -0.606 & -0.452 \end{pmatrix} \\ &* \left[ \begin{pmatrix} 0.4 & 0.1 \\ 0 & 0.4 \end{pmatrix} * \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \cos^3 pt \\ \sin^3 pt \end{pmatrix} \right] - \begin{pmatrix} 4 \cos pt + 0.3 \cos pt & -1.5 \cos pt \\ -0.5 \cos pt + \sin pt & 0 \end{pmatrix} * \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} -0.217 \cos pt - 1.68 \cos^4 pt - 1.137 \cos pt \sin^3 pt \\ 0.849 \cos pt - 1.699 \sin pt + 0.301 \cos^4 pt - 0.62 \cos^3 pt \sin pt + 0.211 \cos pt \sin^3 pt - 0.422 \sin^4 pt \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned} \quad (3.2)$$

Evidently, the vector function  $f_1(t)$  satisfies condition 2) of Theorem 2. Asymptotic properties of the corresponding homogeneous system (more precisely, the corresponding first approximation system) are described rather thoroughly in [3]; namely, it is shown that the first approximation system is exponentially stable and (as follows from Theorem 1) so is the corresponding homogeneous system. Finally, the fourth-order system described by equalities (3.1) and (3.2) has an asymptotically periodic solution in the form

$$x_\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad y_\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} -0.9 - 0.067 \cos^3 pt - 0.417 \sin^3 pt \\ -0.1 - 0.067 \cos^3 pt - 0.017 \sin^3 pt \end{pmatrix}.$$

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